

RECREATION THERAPY AIDE

DEFINITION:

Under general supervision, to assist in planning, organizing, documenting and implementing recreational activities for patients, and to perform related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Recreation Therapy Aide is a paraprofessional class that assists Recreational Therapists with the planning, and implementation of recreational activities for patients. Positions in this class are allocated only to the Department of Health and Human Services, Edgemoor Hospital and report to a Recreational Therapy Supervisor. This class differs from the next higher class, Recreational Therapist, in that the latter is a professional class requiring certification.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Assists with planning, organizing, documenting and implementing recreational activities; assists with or conducts group and individual activities; assesses patient activity needs, documents patient participation and charts patient's progress; assists in the preparation of musical and special events, field trips, and appropriate physical activities; motivates patient participation in activities; assists adult education instructors during classes; transfers and transports wheel chair patients; may drive patients on field trips; orders and maintains control and condition of recreational equipment; organizes clean up and maintenance of activity areas; participates in the initial patient assessment of activity needs as appropriate; writes quarterly summaries; develops and updates patient care plans; may be assigned to independent activity leadership.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Thorough Knowledge of:

- Recreational, entertainment and athletic activities.
- Body mechanics in transferring, transporting and lifting patients and equipment.

General Knowledge of:

- Group dynamics.
- Individual behavior in a psychiatric and geriatric setting.
- The aging process.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Motivate patient participation in activities.
- Deal and interact with patients who have emotional and behavioral problems.
- Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relations with those contacted during the course of work.
- Use a gait belt.
- Drive a van or bus.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training and/or experience, which clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

1. One (1) year of experience as a Recreation Therapy Aide in a recreation therapy department, rehabilitation setting; OR,
2. One (1) year of experience as a Certified Nurses Assistant in a setting where recreational activities provided to patients were part of regularly assigned duties; OR,
3. An Associate of Arts degree in recreation therapy or a field related to recreation administration, OR, 65 units completed in a program leading to a bachelor's degree in recreation administration or a related field.

Note: Successful completion of an approved 40-hour basic and 40 hour intermediate Activity Leader Training Courses may substitute for six (6) months of the required experience.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES OR REQUIREMENTS:**License:**

A valid California Class B driver's license is required at time of appointment.

Working Conditions:

Incumbents may work rotating shifts, weekends and holidays.

Character:

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Convictions may be disqualifying depending on type, number and recency. Prior to appointment, candidates offered employment in any of the Health and Human Services programs that deal with patients and/or drugs, will be subject to a thorough background investigation and a limited security clearance investigation performed by the Sheriff's Department.